

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

The winter season is just around the corner. In some areas, the winter season requirements begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>! It is important to initiate the planning for the implementation of key erosion and sediment control practices **now**. Caltrans specifications require implementation of winter season Best Management Practices (BMPs) **20 days** prior to the winter season identified in the project Special Provisions.



*This slope will be ready for the winter season, after having been stabilized with hydro-seed mulch.*

## CRITICAL WINTER SEASON REQUIREMENTS

Critical requirements for protection of construction sites from erosion and sediment runoff are identified below. The Storm Water Task Force (SWTF) will be inspecting projects for compliance with storm water pollution prevention requirements, with emphasis on the adherence to these following requirements:

- Limit the active, soil-disturbed area. On a year-round basis, the Standard Specifications limit the total area of erodible earth material (soil-disturbed area) to **70,000 square meters** (17 acres). During the winter season, the Special Provisions usually restrict this area to 2 hectares (5 acres). On some projects the active, soil-disturbed area can be further limited.
- Implementation of soil stabilization practices and sediment control measures on active, soil-disturbed areas prior to a rain event; on nonactive, soil-disturbed areas within **10 days** of the cessation of soil-disturbing activities, or prior to a rain event.
- Proper protection of stockpiles with soil stabilization practices and/or sediment control measures.

- Proper use of sediment basins to contain storm water and sediment runoff. Be advised that proper dewatering BMPs must be used if the water is to be removed from the retention area.

## DEFINITIONS

### SOIL-DISTURBED AREAS

Soil-disturbed areas are those that have been disrupted by construction activities such as clearing and grubbing, grading, and excavating. Contractor yards, staging areas, soil stockpiles, access and haul roads are also considered to be soil-disturbed areas if they are located in the Caltrans right-of-way.

### ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION AREAS

Active construction areas are defined as those areas that the contractor intends to be actively involved in soil disturbing work during the ensuing **20-day** period.



*Stockpiled soil needs adequate stabilization and/or sediment controls. This large stockpile of soil is protected with plastic covering and straw bales.*

### NONACTIVE CONSTRUCTION AREAS

Nonactive construction areas are any soil-disturbed areas that are no longer being impacted by construction activities for periods of **20 days** or more. Nonactive areas need to be fully protected with the applicable BMPs (soil stabilization and sediment controls) within **10 days** of the cessation of soil-disturbing activities, or prior to a rain event.

**Remember, to be effective, all erosion and sediment control BMPs require routine inspection and maintenance programs.**

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks. Questions or comments may be directed to:

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